



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/801,225	03/16/2004	Dirk Weichholdt	09242-US	2010
30689	7590	11/08/2005	EXAMINER	
DEERE & COMPANY ONE JOHN DEERE PLACE MOLINE, IL 61265			KOVACS, ARPAD F	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			3671	

DATE MAILED: 11/08/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/801,225

Applicant(s)

WEICHHOLDT ET AL.

Examiner

Árpád Fábián Kovács

Art Unit

3671

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 26 October 2005.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-8 and 11-16 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-8 and 11-16 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

2. Claims 1-8, 11-16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Roberg (EP 0631717 A1).

Prior art discloses:

chopper fig 9, as it is shown in the marked up drawing below;

it is noted in re cl. 1 & 4, that the rotatable chopper (ref 3) receives material from left side, just below the counter blade / shear blade (shown in fig 9), therefore the step shaped shoulder or vibrating toothed conveyor is in the same housing;

a supporting structure (vehicle wheels & frame), threshing & separating assembly, cleaning assembly (cl. 4);

the functional recitation of cl. 14, are met by the structure disclosed by the prior art as shown, such as: residue and/or second crop stream can be fed to and can

Art Unit: 3671

be led past the discharge device in chopping and straw deposition modes respectively;

it is noted that a functional recitation must be expressed as a "means" for performing the specified function, otherwise the intended use of the device does not differentiate the claimed apparatus from the prior art apparatus satisfying the claimed structural limitations;

as now amended cl. 1 & 4:

the housing bottom / floor (39) is connected to the harvesting machine by means of an oscillating rocker (38) so that the function of: can oscillate in a direction of motion back and forth (see arrow in fig 9) for feeding residual crop material through the chopper (i.e. the back and forth motion can and capable of feeding material through the chopper);

cl. 2, 5:

direction of motion is tangential to the circumference of the chopper (1) & also, see drawing below;

cl. 3, 6:

step shaped shoulder at a front end of the bottom / floor for improved pushing of material through the chopper (note: without the step shaped shoulder the

Art Unit: 3671

material would not as aggressively move through the chopper; also, see drawing below);

cl. 7, 8:

see drawing below;

cl. 11:

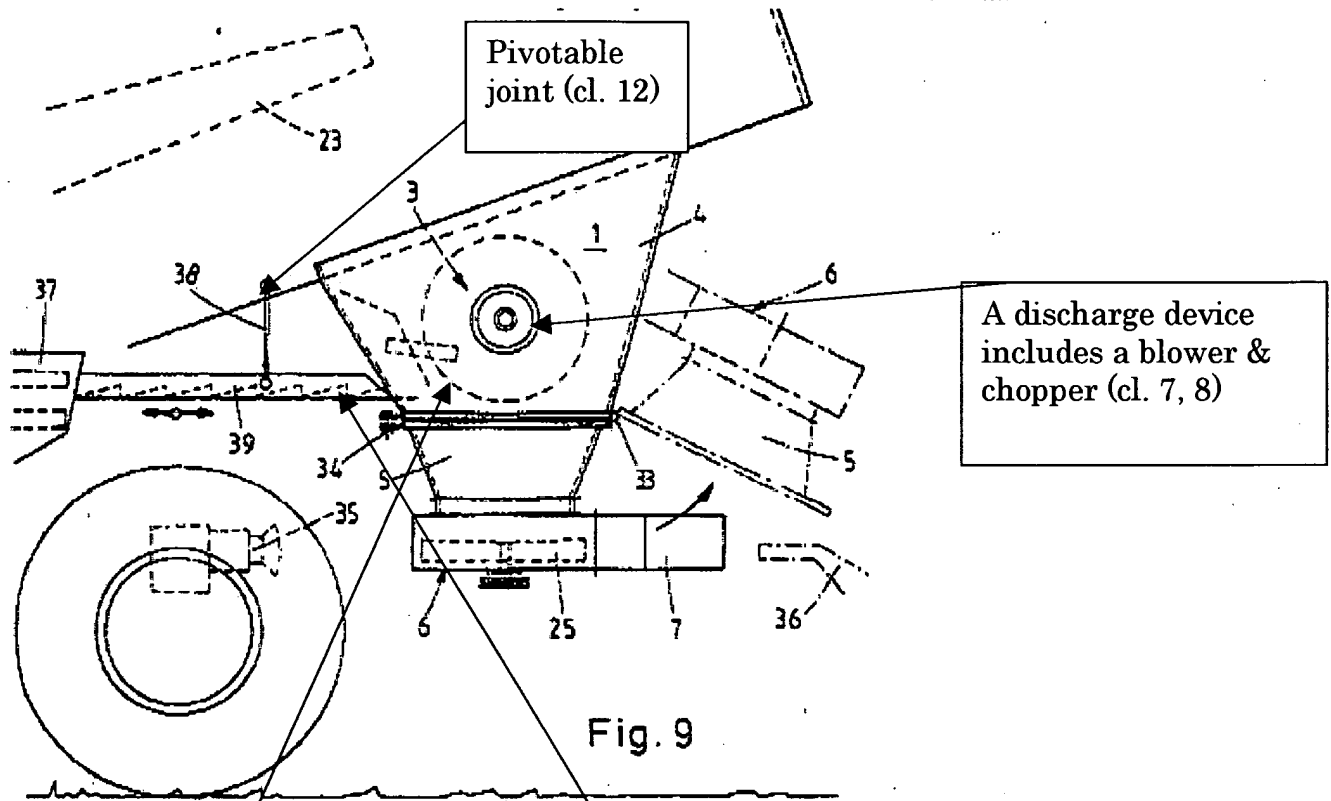
as best shown in fig 9, or drawing below, the connection between the housing bottom & the shoe is mechanical, and the shoe is capable of setting the housing bottom into oscillating motion as shown by the left & right arrows;

cl. 12, 15:

pivotal joint as shown in the drawing below;

cl. 4, 13, 16:

an oscillating floor bottom of the cleaning assembly (37) is rigidly connected to the housing bottom



Chopper's circumference tangential to the bottom (cl. 2, 5)

An oscillating bottom (of the housing) can be moved back & forth as shown by the arrow (cl. 1, 4); with stepped shaped shoulder (cl. 3, 6), inherently mechanically connected to the cleaning shoe, can be set into an oscillating motion by movement of the cleaning shoe (cl. 11)

Response to Arguments

3. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-8, 11-16 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Applicant's argument that Roberg discloses a feed-in floor (39) [which the Examiner considered the "housing with a bottom ... the housing bottom can oscillate"], that does not disclose an oscillating bottom of the housing. However, the Examiner does not see how the claim language as now amended differentiate from Roberg's ref 39.

With respect to Roberg's bottom "does not extend into the straw chopper housing" is not agreed with, because the actual claim language is as follows: "bottom can oscillate in a direction of motion back-and-forth for feeding residual crop material through the chopper." As shown, the claim language does not set forth that the bottom extend through the chopper.

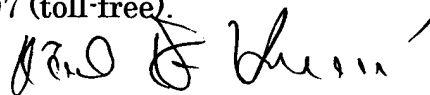
Art Unit: 3671

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Árpád Fábián Kovács whose telephone number is 571 272 6990. The examiner can normally be reached on Mo-Th.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Thomas B. Will can be reached on 571 272 6998. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



Árpád Fábián Kovács
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 3671

ÁFK